Dissecting a Prompt

Steps to Follow for Dissecting a Prompt

* Step 1: Read the prompt and underline important details
* Step 2: Identify your task
* Step 3: Figure out what your final product will look like
* Step 4: Plan
* Step 5: Write the draft
* Step 6: Revise the draft
* Step 7: Write the final draft

Example 1:

Your school board is considering extending the school day to 5:00 p.m. Write to the school board stating your opinion on extending the school day to 5:00 p.m.

Step 1: Read the prompt and underline important information

Step 2: Task

Step 3: Final Product

Step 4: Plan

* Introduction

*-High school student*

*-School should not be extended*

* Ethos

*-Play basketball after school*

*-Go to tutoring after school*

*-Get home late and won’t have time for homework*

* Logos

*-12 of my friends walk home*

*-10 hours will drain students*

*-7 friends have jobs after school*

* Pathos

*-Walk home in the dark*

*-Watch younger siblings*

*-Exhausted and won’t do well the next day*

* Conclusion

-*School day should not be extended*

Outline

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Introduce myself and state my position on the extended school day

* Ethos

My \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ supporting my opinion

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Any facts I know supporting my opinion

* Pathos

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ connection supporting my opinion

* Conclusion

Restate my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Step 5: Write the Draft

Label Each Paragraph:

Dear School Board,

I am a high school student, and I will be affected by your decision about the length of the school day. For many reasons, I am opposed to this decision because I feel it will be bad for the students.

I do many activities after school. I play basketball and practice goes for two hours after the end of the school day. If school is extended to 5, I won’t be done with practice until 7:30. If we have games, it will go longer. I won’t be able to play sports if I am expected to stay after school until 8 or later. In addition… Furthermore…

Extending the school day will prevent my friends from doing after school stuff. 7 of my friends have jobs after school, and if the school day is extended, they will not be able to keep their jobs. They need these jobs to pay for college. Also, … Finally…

If you make the school day longer, you will put the students in danger. I will be forced to walk home in the dark. This is not safe because I will walk through areas that are not good to walk through alone. My sister will also have to walk home alone and she is only 10. Another… To continue…

Thank you for reading my letter. I hope it persuades you to not extend the school day until 5 because it will be better for the students.

Sincerely,

A concerned student

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Step 6: Edit

* Check your draft against your outline.
* Make sure you have answered the prompt.
* Check for the following
  + Spelling
  + Punctuation
  + Subject-Verb Agreement
  + Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement
  + Paragraphs are indented.

Step 7: Write your final draft LEGIBLY

**Prompt #2:** Violence is in many television shows. Some adults believe that this television violence contributes to teenagers being violent. Think about whether or not television violence influences teenagers to be violent.

Write to persuade adults to accept your opinion on this issue.

**Prompt #3:** You are searching for a part-time job. Write a well-developed paragraph or letter in which you persuade a potential employer to hire you. Identify a specific job and include reasons you should be hired.